The Most Christian King's LETTER *to the States General of the* United Provinces, *upon his recalling the Count* d'Avaux *his Ambassador Extraordinary at the* Hague; *together with the said Ambassador's* MEMORIAL; *both presented by him to the States the* 15/26 July: *and the* ANSWER *of the States General to the said* MEMORIAL, *delivered to the Ambassador the* 21 July, / 1 August, 1701.

The Most Christian King's LETTER to the States-General.

Most Dear Great Friends, Allies, and Confederates,

WE have thought fit to recal the Count D'avaux our Ambassador Extraordinary to you, seeing the little Fruit those Conferences have produced which you had desired of Us, and which you have since often interrupted. We are not the less inclined to the Establishing of the Peace. As he will further declare Our Intentions to you before his Departure: Nothing remains for Us, but to assure you, that it still depends on you to receive marks of our ancient Friendship for your Republick, and of Our desire to give you Proofs thereof on all Occasions; & We pray GOD, That he may have you, Most Dear Great Friends, Allies, and Confederates, in his Holy keeping. Given at Versailles the 18th of July, 1701.

To Our Most Dear Great Friends, Allies, and Confederates, the States General of the United Provinces of the *Netherlands*.

Your Good Friend, Ally, and Confederate,

LEWIS.

Colbert.

Count d'*Avaux's* MEMORIAL.

THE Underwritten Count *D'Avaux*, Ambassador Extraordinary from the Most Christian King, being arrived at the *Hague* in *February* last, had reason to believe, that the Orders given him by His Majesty, would sufficiently make known the Desire His Majesty always had to maintain the Peace, and that your Lordships would make use of his favourable Dispositions, after having earnestly desired that His Majesty would permit, that Proposals should be offered in settled Conferences concerning the Securities which you might reasonably desire, and that an Agreement should be made at the same time, about the Means of preventing a New War. This Step, and your Lordships true Interest, ought equally to persuade, That the desired Conferences would have had a happy Issue; And the Most Christian King declaring, That on his part he would not omit any thing to preserve the Publick Tranquility, it seemed, that your Lordships first Allarms would have been happily calmed; That your Confidence in His Majesty's Affection would have removed those vain Fears, which his Grandson's Accession to the *Spanish* Throne had inspired you with. The Count *D'Avaux* hoped therefore, That after a short Embassy he should soon return to the King his Master, with the Satisfaction of having been employed in preventing the new Troubles *Europe* was threatned with. This good hope was confirmed, when your Lordships, acknowledging the lawfull Right of the King of *Spain*, wrote a Letter to that Prince, to congratulate with him on his Accession to the Crown; It appeared by this Resolution, worthy of your Prudence, That if you persisted in demanding Securities for your States, you were unable at least of the Injustice of Foreign Precautions, and would for ever avoid the dangerous trouble of interpreting the same with your own Interests. So the Most Christian King passing over your Lordships long silence, in relation to the Catholick King's Accession to the Crown, every thing seemed to be in a good Disposition towards the Establishing of the Peace, when the Proposals made by your Lordships, and those of the Envoy of the King of *England*, gave occasion to judge, that War, rather than Peace, would be the Consequence of the Union between that Prince and your Lordships, which appeared by the Conformity of those Propositions. You have since proceeded, That your Excessive Demands were the effect of a just Fear grounded on the King's Power, that they ought not to look upon as a Mark of your Confidence in your own Strength. But if this Reason so lately expressed since in the Letter your Lordships wrote to the King of *Great Britain* during the Session of Parliament, was real, if in representing those Dangers you were willing to appear encompassed with on every side, you had no other end than to prevent them, the Means of doing it were in your own hands; there was no need of bringing so great a Number of Troops into the Field; of buying Foreign Alliances at a Dear Rate; of laying your Provinces under Water; in a word, of making all the Extraordinary Preparations that might be necessary for the greatest War. Your Lordships had your selves desired the Conferences, as a Means of securing the Peace, and it depended on you to render those Conferences useful; The King's Intention was never to prolong them by vain Difficulties, and to take an Advantage from those Delays to prepare for War, under a false Appearance of Peace. His Majesty, though strictly United with the King his Grandson, has not formed any incident for the *Spanish* Ambassador's Admission to the Conferences, and has not made use of any Pretence to delay the effect thereof. They were begun to treat of the Interests of your Lordships only, it depended on you to bring them to a speedy Conclusion, to find therein the Safety of your Provinces, the Advantage of your Commerce, and a perpetual Security in the Most Christian King's Friendship: But instead of pursuing the same with your serious Endeavours, your Lordships have again delayed the Conclusion thereof, by desiring that the King of *England*'s Envoy should be admitted to confer with the underwritten Ambassador, and with your Deputies: You ought not to imagine that the true Motive of this new Demand can have escaped the Penetration of His Most Christian Majesty. If His Majesty opposed it for some time, 'tis he suggested to your Lordships, that the Negotiation begun at the *Hague* for the Establishing of the Peace, should be carried on under his Eye, he acted by the same Principle which guides his whole Conduct, the sincere desire of removing all the Obstacles which those who are Enemies to the Peace are continually laying in the way: He foresaw the little Advantage of the Conferences at the *Hague*; He judg'd, that the Difficulty concerning the Admission of the *English* Envoy would no sooner be cleared, but some other Incident would industriously be formed, which might more effectually serve to perplex the Negotiation. 'Tis true, he could not well imagine, that it would be an easie matter to perswade your Lordships to insist upon the pretended Satisfaction to be given to the Emperor, to take upon you to support the Interests of that Prince, and to confound them with those of your Republick, to set up your selves for Arbitrators between the Houses of *France* and *Austria*, to determine, that *Portugal* had a Right, and a Power to alter as he pleas'd all the Constitutions of his Kingdoms; that *Charles* II. on the contrary had no Authority to recal those same Heirs, and to restore by his Will the Fundamental Laws of the Crowns of *Spain*. Indeed it was hardly to be believed, that so wise a Republick should be favour of the House of *Austria*, against *France*, resolve to break those Treaties which you have look'd upon as the Confirmation, and one may say, the Seal of your Sovereignty; That you would engage your selves at the Expence of your Provinces, the Commerce of your Subjects, and your Wealth, to support Foreign Interests, when a few Months before you had made a quite contrary Step, in acknowledging the King of *Spain*. But it seems, that those Considerations which 'tis to be would have been of weight with your Republick, have given place to newer Maxims.

The Underwritten Ambassador should abuse the Confidence which the King his Master is pleased to honour him with, should he write to him, that any Success were to be expected from the Conferences, since they has no reason to judge or to believe it, after the Declaration which the King of *England*'s Envoy has made on the Part as he says, of the King his Master to the last Extremity. Your Lordships are informed of the manner that Prince's Envoy has spoken to him, that the King of *Great Britain* would never depart from the Interests of the Emperor, that he would not hearken into any Proposal of an Accommodation, unless Satisfaction were given to that Prince. The Ties between your Lordships and the King of *England*, are too far as you Lordships have too well made known, that they should allow themselves the Sentiments of that Prince, that they should not do what he shall think most Convenient, to leave room to doubt that they have already

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taken a Reſolution to make a like Declaration to the moſt Chriſtian King. You have already done it, by declaring, that your Deputies could not go on with the Conferences without the Intervention of the *Engliſh* Envoy. Does he exclude himſelf, they are preſently ſuſpended. So it would be to no purpoſe for the moſt Chriſtian King's Ambaſſador, ſent only for the ſake of theſe Conferences, to make any longer ſtay at the *Hague*. If he has not the Satisfaction of having fulfilled his Majeſty's Intentions in Eſtabliſhing a durable Peace between him and the *United Provinces*, he will have that at leaſt of having made known that his Majeſty is willing to contribute all that depends on him to prevent the Interrupting of the Publick Peace. That his Majeſty has taken up Arms only for the Defence of the King his Grandſon; that if he had had a Deſign of making new Conqueſts he might eaſily have put it in Execution, his Forces upon the Frontiers of your Republick affording him the means to have without any difficulty made his advantage of the weak Condition you were then in. Your Lordſhips will not be unwilling this ſhould be ſpoken of, ſince you your ſelves have publiſhed it every where; and this Truth which is evident from your own Teſtimony, ought to make you ſenſible, that it has always depended on you to find in his Majeſty's Friendſhip that Security which you thought you had loſt, when you ſaw the King his Grandſon advanced to the Crown of *Spain*. If theſe Reflexions, which you have yet time to make, can not prevent the War, the moſt Chriſtian King has reaſon to hope that GOD recompenſing the Care his Majeſty has taken to maintain the Tranquillity of Chriſtendom, will continue to pour down upon the Juſtice of his Cauſe, the ſame Bleſſings which his Divine Providence has heaped upon him during the Courſe of his glorious Reign. That thoſe who will dare to Attack him, will be made to know by the Events, that 'tis neither his Weakneſs, nor his Diſtruſt of his own Strength which hitherto withheld his Arms, that they will ſee that he could have revenged the Affronts put upon his Flags at Sea, have prevented his Subjects being ſeized and treated as Enemies by the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Ships, have hindred the ſaid Ships from coming to Sound the Ports of his Kingdom. That it was in his Power to have poſſeſſed himſelf of Places that were yet without Defence, and to have procured to himſelf very conſiderable Advantages for the carrying on of a War, which he foreſaw from the Conduct of the Neighbouring Powers; That if he has paſſed over theſe Affronts, neglected the Advantage he might have drawn from the known Superiority of his Forces, he has done it only to avoid giving the leaſt occaſion to ſay, that he has acted contrary to the exact Obſervation of the Treaties of *Ryſwick*.

The Under-written Ambaſſador wiſhes, that your Lordſhips being convinced, by his Majeſty's conduct, of the ſincerity of his Intentions, would, while it is yet time, take ſuch Reſolutions as may be conformable to your true Intereſt; and though his Departure hinders him from having the Glory of employing his Endeavours therein, he ſhall always have a Concern for the Happineſs of your Republick, after having, during ſo many Years, executed the King's Orders near your Lordſhips. Done at the *Hague* the 26th of *July* 1701.

The Count D'AVAUX.

The ANSWER *of the High and Mighty Lords the States General of the* United Provinces *to the* MEMORIAL *Preſented to Their High and Mightineſſes by* Monſieur d'Avaux, *Ambaſſador Extraordinary from His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, the 26th of* July, 1701. *Extracted from the Regiſter of the Reſolutions of the High and Mighty Lords the States General of the* United Provinces *of the* Low Countries.

Monday, Auguſt 1. 1701.

THE Report of the Sieurs *Van Effen* and others, Commiſſioners of their High and Mightineſſes for Foreign Affairs, being heard, who by Virtue of their Commiſſorial Reſolution of the 26th of July laſt, have examined the Memorial of the Count *d'Avaux*, Ambaſſador Extraordinary from His Majeſty the Moſt Chriſtian King, containing the Reaſons why it would be to no purpoſe for him to ſtay any longer at the *Hague*; as alſo His ſaid Majeſty's Letter, by which he has thought fit to recall the ſaid Count *d'Avaux*, mentioned more at large in the Acts of the ſaid 26th of *July*; and the ſame being debated: It has been thought good and decreed, That the following Anſwer ſhall be returned to the Count *d'Avaux* upon his ſaid Memorial.

That their High and Mightineſſes do ſtill think themſelves very much obliged to His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty for his Goodneſs in ſending hither the ſaid Count *d'Avaux*, with the Character of his Ambaſſador Extraordinary; That they were in hopes, and wiſhed, that in the Conferences held with him, ſufficient Expedients could have been found out to have obtained the End and the Aim that was propoſed by the ſaid Conferences, which is, the Preſervation of the General Peace, and a reaſonable Security for this State: As alſo that the ſaid Count *d'Avaux* might have remained here till they had obtained the ſaid wholſom end. That therefore their High and Mightineſſes could not without Concern receive the News, that His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty had thought fit to recall him, before Affairs were concluded, and brought to a happy and ſo much deſired end. The rather, becauſe it ſeems as if it ſhould be attributed to their Conduct, that the Negotiation had no better Succeſs, and that the Conferences could not be uſefully continued. That their High and Mightineſſes nevertheleſs are very certain, that both before and during the Negotiation they did all that lay in their Power, and all that could in reaſon be expected from 'em, to make known the Sincerity of their Inclinations for the Peace, and that they were willing to contribute as much as in them lay to the bringing of the Negotiation to a good and happy Concluſion, becauſe they well underſtand that nothing can be more for the Intereſt of their Republick than the Preſervation of the Peace, and that their People may enjoy the Fruits thereof with a reaſonable Security: But that they ought to attribute it to the Misfortune of the Times, that in this Affair they could not perſwade His Majeſty of the Sincerity of their Sentiments; That they ſtill perſiſt therein, and that they hope that at length they ſhall be yet ſo happy as to convince him. That when after the Death of the laſt deceaſed King of *Spain*, His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, inſtead of keeping to the Treaty made for the Partition of the Succeſſion, thought good to accept the Will of the ſaid deceaſed King, and to impart to their High and Mightineſſes the Reaſons which had enclin'd him to do ſo, their High and Mightineſſes forthwith made known to His ſaid Majeſty the Reaſons why they could not take any Reſolution in an Affair of ſo great a Conſequence without having more time; and that afterwards, ſo ſoon as the Conſtitution of their Government did permit, they offer'd to enter into a Conference with the Count *de Briord*, at that time Ambaſſador Extraordinary from His Majeſty to them, or with any other whom it ſhould pleaſe His ſaid Majeſty to authorize, that they might joyntly find out the neceſſary means for the maintaining and preſerving of the General Peace, and the eſtabliſhing of their particular Security. That they made the ſaid Offer upon the Aſſurances which His ſaid Majeſty was before pleaſed to give 'em, that he had no other Intention than to maintain the Peace and publick Tranquility, and that he would give 'em a reaſonable Security. That afterwards His ſaid Majeſty having thought fit to ſend hither the Count *d'Avaux*, with the Character of his Ambaſſador Extraordinary, their High and Mightineſſes, as ſoon as he arrived, and had notified to them his Arrival, immediately appointed Deputies to enter into Conference, and to agree with him upon the Manner how the Negotiation might be carried on with moſt Benefit and leaſt Delay: And becauſe at the ſame time their High and Mightineſſes ſaw by the ſaid Count *d'Avaux*'s Memorials, that His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty with great Earneſtneſs deſired that the new King of *Spain* ſhould be acknowledged, they took a Reſolution to acknowledge him, and teſtifie their Deſire to entertain and cultivate a ſincere and good Correſpondence with him; declaring at the ſame time, that they were ready to purſue the Negotiation with their Moſt Chriſtian and Catholick Majeſties, with the Intervention of His Majeſty of *Great Britain*, to treat together of the moſt proper Means for the Preſervation of the General Peace and Tranquility, and the eſtabliſhing of their particular Security; and that in ſuch a manner, together with the Intervention of ſuch other Princes and Potentates as ſhould be thought moſt uſeful and neceſſary for obtaining the wholſom ends propoſed. That their High and Mightineſſes made this Recognition after the Overture of the Conferences, in the firſt place to give an eſſential mark of their Love for the Peace, and after that, in conſideration that the end of the Negotiation might be attained as well after as before they ſhould have acknowledged the King of *Spain*. That theſe Reaſons among others having been the true Motives of acknowledging the King of *Spain*, they conſequently have done no Prejudice to the Intervention of His Majeſty of *Great Britain*, as one of the contracting Parties in the Treaty of Partition, nor to that of other Princes and Potentates concern'd in the Preſervation of the General Peace. Moreover, that by this Proceeding they have not taken any Cognizance of the Juſtice or Injuſtice of the Pretenſions of a Third Party, nor have ſeparated their Intereſts in reſpect of the General Peace from the Intereſt of thoſe who are equally concerned with them, as ſeems to be inferr'd in the ſame Memorial. That their High and Mightineſſes having acknowledged His ſaid Catholick Majeſty, in hopes that for that Reaſon the Negotiation would have been ſo much the leſs delayed, they repreſented to the ſaid Count *d'Avaux*, in the firſt Conferences, that ſince by the Acceptation of the Will of the deceaſed K. of *Spain*, His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty had departed from the Treaty of Partition, wherein their High and Mightineſſes thought to have found their Security, as well in reſpect of the General Peace as their own private Safety, and ſince His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty had repreſented to 'em, that by means of the ſaid Will, as well as by the way of the Treaty of Partition, the End expected from the ſaid Treaty might be attain'd; they expected from the ſaid Count *d'Avaux*, and requeſted him, that he would make Overtures and Propoſals by which they might ſee how the publick Peace and Repoſe would be now ſecured, and their particular Safety warranted. But the ſaid Count *d'Avaux* refuſing more than once to explain himſelf upon this Head, inſiſted, that the Propoſals that were to be made, ſhould be given in by their High and Mightineſſes. That their High and Mightineſſes having conſulted thereupon with His Majeſty the King of *Great Britain*, they ſerled the

Propoſals,

Propoſals, which the Deputies put into the Hands of the ſaid Count *d'Avaux*, at the ſame time that Mr. *Stanhope* Envoy from His Majeſty of *Great Britain*, delivered his Propoſals to him. That their High and Mightineſſes are extreamly ſurprized to ſee that it ſhould be alledged, *That theſe Propoſals ſhould give occaſion to judge, that War rather than Peace would be the Conſequence of the ſtrict Union between His Majeſty of* Great Britain *and their High and Mightineſſes*; That they cannot apprehend what ground there is to ſuch an Inference. That their High and Mightineſſes never knew otherwiſe, than that His Majeſty of *Great Britain* has given upon all Occaſions ſufficient Proofs of his Love for the Peace; That they are ſtrongly Ty'd to His ſaid Majeſty by ſtrict Alliances contracted ſeveral Years ago, for their mutual Security and Defence; that His ſaid Majeſty moreover was one of the Principal Parties in the Treaty of Partition; that they declared before they ſettled and gave in their Propoſals, that they thought it neceſſary to act in concert with his ſaid Majeſty in this Negotiation, as well for the Reaſon alledged, as becauſe of the Relation his ſaid Majeſty has with their Republick. That no Reflection was ever made thereupon, and therefore they muſt repeat it again, that they cannot apprehend upon what Ground it can be ſaid, *That War rather than Peace would be the Conſequence of the Union between this Prince and them, in this Affair*. That their High and Mightineſſes are very ſorry, that His moſt Chriſtian Majeſty having received their Propoſals, thought it not fit to anſwer them: That they have often heard, that their Propoſals were taxed with being exceſſive, but that it was never made out as yet wherein this Exceſs conſiſted, which might have ſerved for Matter to the Negotiation. That the Preſervation of the General Peace, and the Eſtabling of the Particular Security of this State, were the Foundation upon which the whole Negotiation reſted; That it is evident, that the Publick Peace cannot be preſerved, without Satisfaction given to the Emperor, whoſe Pretenſions are ſo well known, that in the Treaty of Partition it was regulated, with the Approbation of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, after what manner the ſame ſhould be ſatisfied; That his ſaid Majeſty having departed from the Treaty of Partition, their High and Mightineſſes demanded a Reaſonable Satisfaction for his Imperial Majeſty, and that the ſame might be agreed upon with him, the whole in general Terms: That there is nothing that can be called Exceſſive in this Article of their Demand; and as to what they have demanded for their particular Security, which they declared more at large, that they are well perſuaded that every unbyaſs'd Perſon will judge, that what they have demanded is not ſufficient even to give 'em a Security like to that they had before the Deceaſe of the laſt King of *Spain*, or ſhould have obtain'd by the Treaty of Partition. That if Fear had any part in the Affair, their High and Mightineſſes believe they had juſt grounds of Apprehenſion; that their Reaſons moreover were grounded, not only upon their particular Sentiments, but alſo upon the Sentiments of their Friends and Allies, who made no ſcruple to ſend 'em the Aſſiſtance which they were bound to do in caſe of Neceſſity, by Virtue of their Defenſive Alliances: Beſides that the ground of their Fears appeared ſufficiently from what is ſaid toward the end of the ſaid Memorial, where their Weakneſs is declared at large. That if it had been in their Power to have freed themſelves from this Perplexity, without breaking themſelves to their Arms, without ſeeking new Alliances with thoſe from whom they expected Aſſiſtance in caſe of Neceſſity, and without drowning their Country, certainly they had done it: That they ſhould not ſcruple to refer themſelves to the Knowledge which the ſaid Count *d'Avaux* has of the Conſtitution of their Government, whether it would not be very eaſie to convince him, and even whether he be not of opinion, that all which they have done to put themſelves in a Condition of Defence, they have done it only becauſe they were entirely convinced of their Danger. That they ſincerely declare that they deſire nothing more than to be able to free themſelves from it with ſome Security, the ſooner the better. That with this Proſpect their High and Mightineſſes demanded Conferences, to the end that the Peace being ſecured, their dangers might alſo ceaſe. That if it had depended upon them to render the Conferences uſeful, certainly they e're now would have had a happy Succeſs; That they are heartily ſorry for the Difficulties which obſtructed 'em. That they freely acknowledge that the Moſt Chr. K. did not form any Incident for the admiſſion of the K. of *Spain*'s Ambaſſador to the Conferences, neither ſhould their High and Mightineſſes have oppoſed it, having declared more than once that they were content the ſaid Ambaſſador ſhould be admitted to 'em. And as for what concern'd the Admiſſion of the Envoy of His Majeſty of *Great Britain*, and the Delays of the Negotiation occaſioned thereby, that their High and Mightineſſes have ſhewed before, that from the beginning they always look'd upon the Intervention of His Majeſty of *Great Britain* in the Negotiation, and the Admiſſion of His Miniſter to the Conferences, to be neceſſary. That without doubt the ſaid Count *d'Avaux* muſt remember that at the beginning there was no Diſpute about it, unleſs it were in reſpect of Rank and Place to be obſerved in the Conferences, which was regulated without any Conteſt ſo ſoon as the Parties had given each other the Satisfaction that was required; ſo that when the Propoſals were delivered into the hands of the Count *d'Avaux*, the Envoy of *England* was preſent at the Conference, and delivered his without any Difficulty. That their High and Mightineſſes were in hopes that this matter would never have given occaſion to any Scruples; ſince His Majeſty of *Great Britain* being ſo highly concerned in the Succeſs of this Negotiation, in reſpect of the Treaty of Partition, the General Peace, and the particular Security of his Kingdoms, he could not be excluded out of the Negotiation. That the Difficulties which afterwards occured upon this Subject, did not proceed from their High and Mightineſſes, but had their Spring from hence, that the ſaid Count *d'Avaux* in his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty's Name, began to oppoſe the Admiſſion of the *Engliſh* Envoy to the following Conferences, upon the ſame foot as before; that this is the Reaſon why the Conferences have been ſuſpended for a long time, to the great Grief of their High and Mightineſſes, who in this Negotiation could not any ways ſeparate themſelves from *England*. So that as the Cauſe of this Delay cannot be attributed to their High and Mightineſſes, and it being ſo juſt and Reaſonable that the Envoy of His Majeſty of *Great Britain* ſhould not be Excluded from the Conferences, they believe they have ſufficiently anſwered every thing that is alledged in this Memorial upon that Head. That they ought to acknowledge alſo, that his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty had reaſon to expect, that they would inſiſt upon Satisfaction to be given to the Emperor, ſince that Point was the firſt Article of their Demands; but that their High and Mightineſſes do not remember that they ever gave the leaſt Occaſion to preſume, that they went about to make themſelves *Arbitrators* between the Houſes of *France* and *Auſtria*, and to decide whether or no the two laſt Kings of *Spain*, *Philip* IV. and *Charles* II. had a Right to alter the Conſtitution and fundamental Laws of the Crown of *Spain*. That they beſeech his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty to call to Mind and Conſider, how that before the Deceaſe of the laſt King of *Spain*, the ſtate of his Health having been for ſome time very Languiſhing, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty as well as His Majeſty the King of *Great Britain*, and their High and Mightineſſes, judged it neceſſary to prevent the Misfortunes which they had reaſon to expect after the Death of that Prince without Iſſue, ſince the Overture of his Succeſſion would infallibly occaſion a New War, if his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty maintained his Pretenſions, thoſe of the *Dauphine*, and his Poſterity, to all the *Spaniſh* Succeſſion; and that the Emperor would alſo make good his Pretenſions, thoſe of the King of the *Romans*, of the Arch-Duke his Second Son, or of his other Children, to the ſaid Succeſſion: That theſe Reaſons engag'd his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, His Majeſty of *Great Britain*, and their High and Mightineſſes to conclude the Treaty ſo well known, concerning the Succeſſion of the *Spaniſh* Monarchy. That as their High and Mightineſſes as to themſelves, when they entred into the ſaid Treaty, never preſumed to make themſelves Arbitrators of the Diſſetences between ſuch Great Princes as the Emperor and the King of *France*, but only endeavoured to contribute to an Agreement between the Parties concern'd, to the Preſerving of the Peace, and Prevenring a New War, by a Regulation of the ſaid Succeſſion, wherein his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty then concurr'd with them, and wherein they flattered themſelves that the Emperor would alſo have concurr'd in like manner; they neither deſire nor aim at any thing more than that a way may be found out to procure the Emperor a Reaſonable Satisfaction, in regard of his Pretenſions, to which at that time ſo much Conſideration was had: That ſince this cannot be effected upon the foot of the Treaty of Partition, other ways may be found out, that the Peace may be Preſerved, and a New War Prevented. That in this their High and Mightineſſes cannot be charged with maintaining Foreign Intereſts; ſince they only inſiſt upon the ſame Principles now that the Caſe is in being, which his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty himſelf judged to be juſt and Neceſſary, before the Caſe had happened. Nor can it any more be imputed to them, that they have made any Step contrary to their Proceeding, in acknowledging the King of *Spain*, ſince that Proceeding does not hinder but that reaſonable Satisfaction may be given to the Emperor. That they acknowledged the King of *Spain*, to remove, as much as it was poſſible, all Obſtacles that might retard the Negotiation for the General Peace, and their Particular Security; ſeeing, that according to their Opinion, neither the General Peace can ſubſiſt without giving the Emperor Satisfaction, nor their Particular Security without the General Peace, as they have formerly alledged. That if the *Prudence* of their High and Mightineſſes be ſo great as is attributed to them, his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty ought to be fully convinced, that they will do nothing to the Prejudice of their Provinces, of their Trade and of their Wealth, but what they are perſuaded is entirely neceſſary for their Preſervation. That they are certain they have done nothing, by which it may be ſaid *they have broken thoſe Treaties, which ſhould be as it were the Confirmation and Seal of their Sovereignty*. That they do not well underſtand what is meant by this. That their Provinces have been always accounted Free and Sovereign Provinces; That their Anceſtors have defended their Liberties againſt the Violence of Foreigners, at the expence of their Eſtates and their Lives, and that they are bound and reſolved to do the ſame: But they live in hopes that no body will queſtion their Liberty and their Sovereignty, and much leſs moleſt 'em in the Enjoyment thereof: That they never ſought, nor do now ſeek to enlarge their Limits, but that they are only employed in defending their Rights and their Poſſeſſions, and in endeavouring the Preſervation of the Peace and Tranquillity with and between their Neighbours: That theſe are the true Principles and real Maxims of their Republick, wherein they acknowledge no Change or Alteration. That their High and Mightineſſes are

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much concerned the said Count *d'Avaux* expects so little Success from the Conferences, that he durst not write about it to the K. his Master, by reason of the Declaration which Mr. *Stanhope* made to him touching the Satisfaction to be given to the Emperor. That they cannot deny but that both His Majesty of *Great Britain* and themselves are of Opinion, that it would be just that the Emperor's Satisfaction should be treated of as one of the means that ought to be made use of for the Preservation of the General Peace, and their particular Security. That this is no new Proposition; that it was advanced in the Proposals delivered to the Count *d'Avaux*, as well in the Name of His Majesty of *Gr. Britain*, as of their High and Mightinesses, who have expresly demanded, that the Emperor should be invited into the Negotiation, that the Satisfaction to be given him might be there agreed upon, which is the same thing they now demand. That in like manner their High and Mightinesses cannot acknowledge that they blindly submit to the Sentiments of His Britannick Majesty, as they are said to do; but that they have a great Deference for his Advice, because they are fully perswaded that His Majesty is very much enclined to the maintaining of the Peace and publick Tranquility; that they are absolutely convinced by an infinite number of Proofs, that His Majesty seeks nothing more than the welfare of their Republick, and very much rely upon His Prudence and Experience; besides that they have such strict Tyes with that Prince, as King of *Gr. Britain*, that they cannot separate from Him. That if the Conferences must be suspended by reason of the said Mr. *Stanhope's* Declaration, and because of the Conformity of their High and Mightinesses Sentiments with those of His Majesty of *Gr. Britain* in this Affair, they shall look upon it as a very great Misfortune; but if His Most Christian Majesty had thought good to continue the Conferences, and to suffer the Emperor's Satisfaction to be there treated of, they should have hoped that in the end Matters might have come to a good and wholsome Conclusion; and that the said Count *d'Avaux* might have departed with the Satisfaction of having Terminated an Affair of the greatest Importance, wherein he has already taken so much pains. That nevertheless their High and Mightinesses live in hopes that the said Count *d'Avaux*, having seen during his Residence here the Sincerity of their Sentiments for the Peace, and their Respect and Esteem for His Most Christian Majesty and his Friendship, will upon his Return remove all those evil Impressions that may have been made upon His said Majesty, to the Prejudice of their Conduct. That their High and Mightinesses can truly declare, that they know not of any cause of Jealousie they may have given to His said Majesty since the Conclusion of the last Peace: That 'tis true they have been forced to arm in their own Defence, but they did not begin to do it till after they saw their Barriers in the *Spanish Low Countries*, which had cost them so much pains and so much Money, which are so necessary for them, and which His Most Christian Majesty himself thought formerly so important to their Republick, possessed by His Majesty's Forces, till their Forces, which to remove all occasion of Jealousie, they had recalled, were detained there; and till they had seen what great Preparations of War were making in those parts. That their High and Mightinesses cannot deny but that besides the great Preparations which gave 'em Umbrage, they could not but be very jealous of the strict Union between *France* and *Spain*, and the Effects which they see do daily result from the same, notwithstanding they had entred into the Treaty of Partition for this Reason among others, To prevent the giving of any Jealousie, by the Uniting of too many Dominions. That their High and Mightinesses formerly declared, That their Opinion of his most Christian Majesty, was, that whether he began a War or continued the Peace, he would not regulate his Actions according to his Power, but according to Reason and Equity; which is still their Opinion, since otherwise none of his Neighbours could ever be secure. That their High and Migh. know the Value of his Majesty's Friendship, for which Reason they have always sought it, and desire nothing more Earnestly than to preserve it by all possible means, together with the General Peace, and a Reasonable Security for their State: That if notwithstanding all their Care, and all the Pains which they have taken to this effect, they must undergo a War against their Wills, and contrary to their Inclinations, they cannot charge themselves with omitting any thing they ought to have done to avoid it; and this will be their Comfort in their Misfortune; with hopes that God, through his Divine Goodness, will afford 'em his Almighty Assistance. That their High and Mightinesses cannot forbear saying, that they are much concerned to find themselves accused as if their Men of War, in Conjunction with the *English*, had affronted His Most Christian Majesty's Flag, seized his Subjects, sounded his Ports, and fired upon the *French* Vessels: That their High and Mightinesses having for His Most Christian Majesty a very great Respect, they have always endeavoured with all the Circumspection imaginable to preserve to themselves the Honour of his Friendship: That if, by accident or otherwise, any of their Subjects may have done any thing to the Prejudice of His said Majesty or any of his Subjects, they are ready to make all due Reparation, and to give His said Majesty all the Satisfaction that he can reasonably desire. That though they have no knowledge of what the *English* Vessels may have done in that particular, nevertheless they make no question but that His Majesty of *Gr. Britain* is in the same Disposition as their High and Mightinesses to give His Most Christian Majesty reasonable Satisfaction, in case His *English* Subjects had done any wrong to the Subjects of *France*. That so far as these things may concern their High and Mightinesses, they never received any Informrtion of any thing done, that could deserve the Name of an Affront, unless the same be applied to an accident that came to their Knowledge, not by way of a formal Complaint, but indirectly, which happened between one of their Men of War and two *French* Ships, not far from *Gennes*, in the Month of *April* last: That the Truth of Fact, as far as they can learn, is, that a Man of War belonging to this State, called the *Sun*, being Convoy to certain Merchant-men in the *Mediterranean*, and being separated by bad Weather from the Ships under his Protection, and being left alone for some days had fight off of *Monaco* of a Bark coasting along the Shore, not knowing of what Nation she was; That the Captain, to the end he might speak with her Crew, and enquire about the Ships that were parted from him, gave the usual Signal by firing a Gun; upon which the said Bark making the best of her way, he sent out his Shallop after her: But the Bark's Crew quitted their Vessel, betook themselves to their Shallop, and escaped ashore, leaving only two Men aboard, who gave an account that it was a *French* Bark, and that their Companions had made their Escape, believing the States Man of War had been a *Turkish* Ship. But after the Captain had shewed them their mistake, the Bark was released; but that a Gun laden with Ball was nevertheless fired from the City of *Monaco*. That 2 days after the same Captain met a little Frigat, and endeavoured to speak with the Ships Crew for the same Reason; to which end making up to her, he put out white Colours, and fired a Gun for a Signal, but the Frigat retired under the Walls of *Monaco*, from whence several Guns were fired upon the Man of War, though for what Reason the Captain could never tell. That this Relation containing all their High and Mightinesses could learn to this Hour of this matter, so inconsiderable an Action, which it seems was a mistake, ought not in the Opinion of their High and Mightinesses to be look'd on as an Affront offered to His said Majesty's Flag. That except this, they declare that they do not know that their Men of War ever did any thing that so much as resembled an Affront put upon His said Majesty's Flag, or the seizing his Subjects, sounding his Ports, or firing upon the *French* Vessels. That their High and Mightinesses never having been informed of any such thing, they cannot believe that His Majesty can have conceiv'd or can retain any Displeasure against the Republick for the inconsiderable and accidental meeting of the fore-mentioned Barks. That as for what remains, their H. and M. have taken, and always will take care, religiously to observe their Treaties, particularly their Treaties with his most Christian Majesty; and shall at all times take those Resolutions, by which they may preserve the Honour of his Friendship and Affection; and as much as it depends on them, facilitate the General Peace; so as they may find their Particular Security therein. That it being said more than once in the said Memorial, That their High and Mightinesses have still Time to resolve, it would be a Satisfaction to them that the said Count *d'Avaux* should remain here some time longer, to the end they might have an Opportunity to continue the Conferences for a General Peace and for their Private Security, and to bring 'em to a happy Conclusion; That therefore their High and Mightinesses before they take their leaves of the said Count *d'Avaux*, and before they deliver to him their Recredential Letter in Answer to his said Majesty's Letter, have taken this Resolution to serve for an Answer to his Memorial: And so the Extract of the Present Resolution shall be delivered him by the Agent *Rosenboom*.

Signed, *W. VAN HAREN*

It Agrees with the said Register

F. FAGEL

Printed by *Edward Jones*, in the *Savoy*, 1701.

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